considered for inclusion under AIBP. Components of projects not receiving other assistance can also be included under AIBP. The details of CLA/ grant released under AIBP during the last three years to the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 207, Annexure No. 6]

(b) to (d) The details of the projects taken up under RIDF during the last three years in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and projects completed out of these by 31st October, 2005 are also given in Annexure and the details of those covered under AIBP in these States during the last three years are included in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 207, Annexure No. 6]

Inter-linking of rivers

1614. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inter-linking of rivers project has been conceptualized not to meet domestic water needs of the people but to meet the demand for growing commercial agricultural activities;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the technological aspect of the river-linking concept was based on the knowledge of the European rivers and not on the realities related to rivers in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The ILR Project envisages to meet domestic water needs of rural and urban population in the enroute link commands/areas on priority, in addition to agriculture requirements.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The river-linking concept has emanated from the ground realities of in equal distribution of water resources among various river basins in the country causing recurring floods and droughts.

Study of river linking project

1615. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project inter-linking of rivers may affect the fresh water supply to Bay of Bengal and the salinity conditions which would in turn affect the monsoon and the economy of the country;